



# UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Winter 2020

FACULTY OF ARTS

Department of Sociology

Department of Sociology Website: <https://soci.ucalgary.ca/>

<b>COURSE TITLE: Introductory Social Research Methods</b>			
<b>Course Number</b>	<b>Sociology 313</b>		
<b>Pre/Co-Requisites</b>	Sociology 201		
<b>Instructor Name</b>	Dr. Dawn Rault	<b>Email:</b>	dawn.rault@ucalgary.ca
<b>Instructor Email Policy</b>	Feel free to contact me over email at any time. Please put your course number and section in your email's subject line, and include a proper salutation, your full name, student ID, and a proper closing in the body of your email. All emails violating customary email conventions will be ignored. All other emails will be answered within <i>two business days</i> . <i>I do not answer emails outside of office hours (which includes the weekend)</i> . Please take that into account when emailing me questions pertaining assignments or exams. If you have a course-related question, please check the course outline first. Questions that can be answered by consulting the course outline will not be answered. Also, please e-mail me for administrative purposes only, for example to set up an appointment. Please do not use e-mail as a replacement for an zoom meeting appointment, if there is something you want to discuss. Questions about the course content and readings, concerns about grades, or any other personal issues should be dealt with through a zoom meeting.		
<b>Office Location</b>	Virtual	<b>Office Hours</b>	Please email me/Mohana any questions you may have, and if we cannot adequately answer your query over email, we can arrange a zoom virtual meeting.
<b>Telephone No.</b>	403-220-6505		
<b>TA Name</b>	Mohana Mukherjee	<b>TA Email</b>	mohana.mukherjee@ucalgary.ca
<b>TA Office Location</b>	Virtual	<b>TA Office Hours</b>	Virtually Monday 12:30-1:30
<b>Class Dates</b>	Narrated PPT lectures will now to posted weekly on D2L		
<b>Class Times</b>	See above		
<b>Class Location</b>	Online through D2L		
<b>Lab Time + Location</b>	Online through D2L-Labs posted weekly		

## Course Description

How do we know what we know about the social world?

In this course, we will tackle this question together by examining how social scientists observe, analyze, and create knowledge about various social institutions and phenomena. We will introduce you to qualitative and quantitative research methods commonly used by social scientists, and will invite you to think critically about how different methods lead to different kinds of knowledge production. We will pay special attention to how sociological research methods have historically privileged some groups, while excluding, marginalizing, and disparaging others, and how methods today may be used to both challenge and reproduce social inequalities. The University requires that in order to take this course, you must have taken SOCI 201.

## Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

This course is designed to provide you with as much hands-on experience with research methods commonly used by social scientists as possible. In this course, we will be:

- (1) learning about and practicing qualitative and quantitative methods,
- (2) exploring how science is produced and what ideas or conditions influence science,
- (3) critically thinking about existing scientific research methods, and
- (4) producing a research proposal. We will do this through a variety of hands-on activities, including designing studies, doing research, and examining scientific literature.
- (5) develop practical skills of research design and grant proposal writing through that.
- (6) We will be focusing on ethics of research, critical epistemologies and methodologies in this course, which are relevant to other fields as well. We will encourage you to apply the methodological tools you learn in this course to your own research interests, and to the knowledge claims you encounter in other courses and in your everyday lives.

## Required Textbooks, Readings, Materials, Electronic Resources

Readings are assigned from two sources:

- Alan Bryman, Edward Bell. 2019. *Social Research Methods*, Fifth Canadian Edition. Toronto: Oxford University Press. (Available at the Campus Bookstore)
- Several online journal articles (links and/or pdfs provided on D2L). *Please note: You need to be logged in to U of C library for the links to work.*

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

Monday, Jan 13	Introduction to the Course/Explanation of Course Requirements <b>NO LAB JANUARY 13</b>
Remainder Week 1 Jan 15 + 17	Research Orientations Chapter 1
Week 2 Week of Jan 20	Research Design Chapter 2 <i>Lab January 20</i>
Week 3 Week of Jan 27	Research Ethics Chapter 3 <i>Lab January 27</i>
Week 4 Week of Feb 3	Quantitative Research-Part 1 Chapters 4 + 5 <i>Lab February 3</i>
Week 5 Week of Feb 10	Quantitative Research-Part 2 Chapters 4 + 5 <i>Lab February 10</i> <b>MIDTERM FRIDAY FEBRUARY 14</b>
	<i>Reading Break Feb 16-22-No class/lab</i>
Week 6 Week of Feb 24	Qualitative Research-Part 1 Chapters 9 + 10 <i>Lab February 24</i>
Week 7 Week of March 2	Qualitative Research-Part 2 Chapter 11 <i>Lab March 2</i>
Week 8 Week of March 9	Sampling Chapter 7 <i>Lab March 9</i>
Week 9 Week of March 16	Units of Analysis <i>Lab March 16</i> <b>ARTICLE CRITIQUE DUE MARCH 16 via D2L dropbox</b>
Week 10 Week of March 23	Quantitative Analysis Chapter 8 <i>Lab March 23-Activity posted/submitted to D2L</i>
Week 11 Week of March 30	Qualitative Analysis Part 1 Chapter 13 <i>Lab March 30-Activity posted/submitted to D2L</i>
Week 12 Week of April 6 <b>NO CLASS APRIL 10</b>	Qualitative Analysis Part 2 Chapter 13 <i>Lab April 6-Activity posted/submitted to D2L</i>
Week 13 Week of April 13 <b>NO CLASS APRIL 13</b>	Flex Week/Final Exam Prep <b>NO LECTURE OR LAB APRIL 13</b> <b>FINAL ASSIGNMENT DUE APRIL 15 via D2L dropbox</b>

## Methods of Assessment and Grading Weights

. Given the situation, we will attempt to be as flexible as possible with submission deadlines. Please connect if you require an extension beyond 3 days after the assignment is due

### Midterm Exam-20% (February 14)

- The midterm exam will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions, and it will be administered during class time (50 minutes).

### Final Exam-25% (Date determined by registrar)

- The final exam will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions, and a partial article critique. The final exam is not cumulative, but builds on content from before the midterm.
- Because you will not have your final assignment graded prior to the final exam, the final exam will be going ahead. You will have 2 hours to complete your final exam, but it can be written any time during a 24-hour period. This means that the 24 window to write your exam will open on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm, and close on Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm. You can write your 2-hour timed exam any time during that 24-hour period. Once you open the exam, the clock will begin for your 2-hour exam. If you are unable to write during that 24 hour window, please let me know so we can make alternate arrangements.
- **Students with accommodations**-If your accommodation only requires additional time, I can easily accommodate that on my end. If your accommodation requires additional supports (for example, adaptive technology), you will need to coordinate your exam through SAS.
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### Lab Activities-15% (Weekly)

- The labs are designed to give you practical experience with the various research methods we discuss in class. The labs are facilitated by a Teaching Assistant (TA). Labs will now be posted weekly on D2L, and submitted through D2L dropbox. You will have one week to complete the lab activity from the date they are posted. Answers keys will be posted on D2L the following week so you can self-grade your assignments.

### Article Critique-10% (due March 16 via D2L dropbox)

- You are asked to critique a qualitative OR quantitative article that is posted on D2L. The critique template is also posted on D2L. You may work individually or with a partner, but you will receive the same grade. Please now submit your critique to D2L dropbox.

### Major Assignment-30% (due April 15th via D2L dropbox)

- Details on the major assignment can be found on D2L. You may work individually or with a partner, but you will receive the same grade. Please submit your assignment via D2L dropbox on April 15. Because we are not able to pilot our surveys, I have eliminated that assignment requirement. Please check the updated assignment description posted on D2L.

## Final Exam Information

Please see info above.

## Grading Scale

Letter grades will be assigned and submitted to the registrar based on the following scale:

Grade	Percent range	Grade Point Value	Description
<b>A+</b>	96 – 100%	4.0	Outstanding performance
<b>A</b>	90 – 95.99%	4.0	Excellent performance
<b>A-</b>	85 – 89.99%	3.7	Approaching excellent performance
<b>B+</b>	80 – 84.99%	3.3	Exceeding good performance
<b>B</b>	75 – 79.99%	3.0	Good performance
<b>B-</b>	70 – 74.99%	2.7	Approaching good performance
<b>C+</b>	67 – 69.99%	2.3	Exceeding satisfactory performance
<b>C</b>	63 – 66.99%	2.0	Satisfactory performance
<b>C-</b>	59 – 62.99%	1.7	Approaching satisfactory performance
<b>D+</b>	55 – 58.99%	1.3	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject
<b>D</b>	50 – 54.99%	1.0	Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
<b>F</b>	<50%	0	Failure. Did not meet course requirements.

## Grade Reappraisal

Within one week of the date the exam/assignment is returned, students seeking reappraisal of examinations or assignments must submit a written response to me explaining the basis for reconsideration of one's mark. I will reconsider the grade assigned and will then book a time with the student to discuss his or her work and rationale. It should be noted that a re-assessed grade may be raised, lowered, or remain the same.

## Technology Use

Please be respectful to those around you when using technology. To minimize disruption in the classroom, laptops are permitted in the classroom BUT ONLY to take notes and to connect with class materials. (Permission to use LAPTOPS AND CELL PHONES may be withdrawn if they are used for anything else other than class purposes).

## Handing in Papers, Assignments

1. The main Sociology Department office does not deal with any course-related matters. Please speak directly to your instructor.
2. **Protection of Privacy:** The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPP) legislation does not allow students to retrieve any course material from public places. Anything that requires handing back will be returned directly during class or office hours. If students are unable to pick up their assignments from the instructor, they can provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are only available online.

## Research Ethics

Students are advised that any research with human subjects – including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation – must have the approval of the Faculty Ethics Committee. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subjects research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

## Copyright Legislation

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf>) and requirements of the Copyright Act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

## Instructor Intellectual Property

Course materials created by professor(s) (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

## Academic Misconduct

Please refer to the website listed below for information on University of Calgary policies on Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

## Absences and Deferrals

Deferrals for lab work cannot be accepted. Students who are absent from a midterm exam should inform their instructor as soon as possible. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of documentation be provided. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, instructors may decide that a deferral can be granted. For information on possible forms of documentation,

including statutory declarations, please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>

**Deferred Final Exam Form:** Please note that requests to defer a Registrar scheduled final exam are dealt with through the Registrar's Office. Further information can be found at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>

Once an extension date has been agreed between instructor and student, the form should be taken to the Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (SS 110) for approval by an Associate Dean (Students).

## Academic Accommodation

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/). Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

## Wellness and Mental Health Resources

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive support when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through Student Wellness Services (Room 370 MacEwan Student Centre, <https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellness-services/services/mental-health-services>) and the Campus Mental Health Strategy (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>).

## Student Success Centre

The Student Success Centre provides services and programs to ensure students can make the most of their time at the University of Calgary. Our advisors, learning support staff, and writing support staff assist students in enhancing their skills and achieving their academic goals. They provide tailored learning support and advising programs, as well as one-on-one services, free of charge to all undergraduate and graduate students. For more information visit:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success>

## Student Ombuds Office

The Student Ombuds Office supports and provides a safe, neutral space for students. For more information, please visit [www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/) or email [ombuds@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ombuds@ucalgary.ca).

## Student Union (SU) Information

The SU Vice-President Academic can be reached at (403) 220-3911 or [suvpaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suvpaca@ucalgary.ca); Information about the SU, including elected Faculty Representatives, can be found here:

<https://www.su.ucalgary.ca>.

## Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points

Assembly points for emergencies have been identified across campus. Assembly points are designed to establish a location for information updates from the emergency responders to the evacuees; from the evacuated population to the emergency responders. For more information, see the University of Calgary's Emergency Management website:

<https://live-risk.ucalgary.ca/risk/emergency-management/evac-drills-assembly-points/assembly-points>

## Safewalk

Campus security will escort individuals, day or night, anywhere on campus (including McMahon Stadium, Health Sciences Centre, Student Family Housing, the Alberta Children's Hospital and the University LRT station). Call 403-220-5333 or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths. Please ensure your personal safety by taking advantage of this service.